THE

Theatrical Observer.

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 95. Monday, Feb. 25, 1822. Price 1d.

DRURY LANE.

It might be supposed that the Manager of a drooping Theatre amongst the means he could resort to in order to retrieve his affairs, would particularly apply himself to the *liberal* encouragement of *dramatic talent*---it might be conceived it would strike him, that to obtain a new Drama of *sterling merit*, and attach thereto whatever of the labours of eminent artists and composers should seem desirable, and then to put the whole into the hands of his best performers, would be the way to ensure success of a permanent nature. Yet, strange to say, the Manager of Drury Lane Theatre patronises *dulness* if it comes *cheap*, and is satisfied with the possibility of a *temporary favorable effect*, produced through the medium of scene-painters, composers, and excellent comic and vocal performers. An instance of this extraordinary policy was afforded at this House on Saturday evening, when a New Comic Opera, under the title of *The Veteran; or, the Farmer's Sons*, was produced for the first time. To give a detail of the *Plot* of this most miserable Drama, would be as difficult as the endeavour to discover a spark of wit, or genuine humour in the dialogue. However, we are enabled to say, that the *Veteran* is a *General Van*, (personated by Mr. Munden) who has two pretty daughters, *Rose*, (Miss Forde) and *Bell*, (Madame Vestris)---that The Farmer is one old *Franklin*, (Mr. Powell) and his two *Sons* are *Captain George*, (Mr. Harley) and *Jonas*, (Mr. Knight). We also can state, that the General has two hangers-on *Sergeant O'Rory O'Wnack*, (Mr. Fitzwilliam) and an *old fellow*, (whose designation we could not catch) represented by Mr. G. Smith. To which characters there may be added a *Recruiting Serjeant*, (Mr. Gattie) and a pretty, moping, cottage lass, named *Patty*, (Miss Povey).

The *Veteran General* has double duty to perform, namely, to relieve the distresses of the village, and to bring his daughter *Bell* to a reasonable conception of the value of the tender passion of *love*, which

she derides, although opposed by papa and sister. The *farmer*, poor man, is bed-ridden through vexation at the bad times, until the last scene: but his sons *George* and *Jonas* are active in his service. *George* has been missing from his family for many years, but has become a Captain, saved the life of one of the General's daughters, and returns to his native village just in time to sing and spout parliamentary speeches on the highway—to support the manœuvres of the General to cause the heart of Miss Bell to capitulate to Cupid, and to restore the fallen fortunes of his own family. *Jonas* is employed in hugging bailiffs—in taking the King's bounty as a recruit, to preserve his *feather*—in finding a pocket book—reasoning on honesty—making love to *Patty*, and wiping his eyes because he is an honest lad and reverences his dad. Sergeant, or Major, or Sergeant-Major O'Whack, (he was sometimes called one or other) was a sort of an aisy, mollified, aid-de-camp to the General; and the *old fellow* was suttler to the whole corps of paupers under the same command. Each, when they could, sang a song, a duet, or a trio, or joined in a *row-de-dow* chorus: and so the whole concluded amidst applause, with victory over Miss *Bell's* obdurate heart—joy for the found brother *George*, and the happy loves of *Jonas* and *Patty*.

The music was on the whole very effective, the execution in general good. Miss Forde, who made her *début* on this occasion, has a pleasing person, but her voice, although possessing great power and compass, seems *wiry* in the upper notes, and *husky* in the lower ones: but we will not be decisive in our opinion of her vocal talent until we hear her under circumstances less alarming to her nerves, which were occasionally much affected by the trial she was undergoing. She is a pupil of Mr. Rooke, and was much applauded.

The House was by no means full.

COVENT GARDEN.

This House was most numerously and elegantly attended on Saturday evening to see *Montrose*, the *Rendezvous*, and the Comedy of *The Padlock*. These pieces were received with great applause. The absence of Mr. Liston, (who from his continued hoarseness has been unable to sustain the character of *Dalgetty* for the last two nights) has thrown a great *damp* upon the Opera, but he appears this evening.

A Share of this Publication is to be disposed of.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening will be performed (8th. time) a New Opera, called

MONTROSE;

Or, The Children of the Mist.

With new Scenery, Dresses, and Decorations. The Overture by Mr. Bishop, the rest of the Music by Mr. Bishop, Ware, &c.

Earl of Montrose, Mr. CONNOR,
Earl of Menteith, Mr. DURUSET,
Angus Macaulay, Mr. COMER,
Allan Macaulay, Mr. ABBOTT,
Evan Dhu, Mr. HUNT, Donald, Mr. TAYLOR,
Capt. Dalgetty, Mr. LISTON,
Marquis of Argyl, Mr. CHAPMAN,
Sir Duncan Campbell, Mr. EGERTON,
Colin, Mr. KING,
Ranald of the Mist, Mr. YATES,
Lewie, Master LONGHURST,
Children of the Mist—Officers of Argyle—Officers of Montrose.
Erorcht, Mrs. FAUCIT,
Annot Lyle, Miss STEPHENS.
Ellen, Mrs. BISHOP, Mause, Mrs. STERLING,

The following New Scenery will be exhibited. Act I.

A ROMANTIC GLEN IN THE HIGHLANDS,
The Dining Hall of Darlinwarich. An Apartment of the Castle.
The Hall of Audience in the Castle. ACT II.
The Castle of Inverara, with a distant View of Lochfine and Mountains.
The Anti-Room of the Castle,
Craigs and Rocks, the Abode of the Children of the Mist
ACT III. Interior of a Hut. The Apartment of Annot Lyle.
LOCH LOCHY,
With the Encampment of Argyl.
The Gorge of the Mountains. A Wild Dell.
Interior of Loch Lochy. An Apartment in Loch Lochy.
The LARGE HALL in INVERLOCHY,

To conclude with, a Grand, and Comic Pantomime,

Harlequin & Mother Bunch: Or, the Yellow Dwarf.

The characters the same as before.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane,

This Evening will be performed [2nd time] a New Comic Opera, in 3 Acts, entitled

THE VETERAN;

Or, The Farmer's Sons.

A New Pastoral and Military Overture, composed by Mr. T. Cooke The rest of the Music (with the exception of one piece) composed expressly for this Opera by Messrs. Whitaker, Parry, Rooke E. Knight, and T. Cooke.

The Principal Characters by

Mr. MUNDEN, Mr. HARLEY,
Mr. FITZWILLIAM, Mr. POWELL,
Mr G. SMITH, Mr. GATTIE, Mr. KNIGHT.
Mr WILLMOTT, Mr. ISAACS, Mr. WEBSTER
Messrs. Gibbon, Dobbs, Randall, Sheriff, Read, D. Smith, Turnour, Goodman, Hope, Gussio, &c. &c.
Madame VESTRIS, Miss POVEY,
Mrs. BARNARD, And Miss FORDE,

List of the Songs, Duetts, Choruses, &c.

ACT I.

Glee and Chorus—" Merry Boys"
Song—" Old Adam."
Duet—" Granby the brave" [old Air]
Recit and Air—" Let us teach the heart to love."
Song—" 'Tis music's all inspiring sound."
Finale—" Cupid if tried by a martial court."

ACT II.

Song—" Erin, dear Erin !" I prize thee."
Duet—" The Shamrock, Rose, and Thistle."
Recit and Air—" The hero when fallen."
Song—" The pretty Miss Pan and the brave Captain Flash."
Trio—" Why the devil don't you cease."
Song—" Hear ! hear ! hear !
Glee and Chorus—" In Love or in War."

ACT III.

Bravura—" Hark, hark ! the echo."
Song—" Oh, Paris, light ethereal sphere."
Fragment—" Adieu ! adieu!"
Song—" How vain is the sigh."
Duet—" Merrily o'er the world we'll go."
Duet—" Old Batchelors ought to be pick'd."
Finale—" Merry, merry, beats the drum."

To which will be added,

Love in Humble Life.

The Characters the same as before.